Overutilisation of Samrat Warship

1535. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after converting the warship "Vikrant" as a museum, there is only one warship "Samrat" in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping the warship Samrat under heavy pressure;

(c) whether Government are considering actively to build another such warship for the protection of both the coasts of the country; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) and (b) After decommissioning of the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant in 1997, there is one Aircraft Carrier in the Indian Navy, INS Viraat. The INS Viraat is being utilized for designated operational missions, and the ship is being maintained adequately to meet all assigned roles.

(c) and (d) The Government has already started the construction of an indigenous Aircraft Carrier at Cochin Shipyard Limited at Kochi.

Missing laptop

1536. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official laptop containing some vital and strategic information including about war games has gone missing at Bhatinda in September, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A case of theft of a laptop at Bhatinda has come to the notice of Government. However, the preliminary report indicates that it did not contain any information of military security value. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to establish the facts in this regard.